Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000400350006-7

BEST COPY

AVAILABLE

Thru out Folder

Sanitized - Approved For Release : CIA-RDP75-00149R000400350006-7

From Page | Last Page | Other Page
LOS ANGELES, CALIF.
HERALD EXAMINER

EVENING NOT GIVEN
SUNDAY NOT GIVEN

MAY
Sanitized - Approved For Release - CIA-RDP
[redacted]
FOIAb3b

Two Versions Conflict

How Much Was JFK Told About Cuba?

Just how much John F. Kennedy knew before he was President, of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency's aid to a Cuban refugee volunteer counter-revolutionary invasion of their homeland, remains a matter of dispute.

The question has been given added timely interest by mass trial in Red Havana of survivors of the abortive invasion which took place at the Bay of Pigs three months after Mr. Kennedy took office.

The trial has been made part of an all-out Cuban Communist propaganda assault against the United States for Latin American consumption.

Richard Nixon claims in the accompanying installment of his book, Six Crises, that by direction of President Eisenhower, the Democratic nominee for President was briefed fully in 1960 by Allen Dulles, director of the CIA, on all covert operations of CIA around the world. This was in accordance with precedent in previous presidential campaigns.

Nixon obviously thought that Kennedy was exploiting the knowledge given him confidentially when the Democratic presidential nominee came out in favor of intervention in Cuba and aid to the rebels against Castro.

"I was faced with what was probably the most difficult decision of the campaign," Mr. Nixon says. "Kennedy had me at a terrible disadvantage. He was now publicly advocating what was already the policy of the American Government—covertly—and Kennedy had been so informed. . . . Still, the covert operation had to be protected" (by the administration, i.e., Nixon).

On the eve of publication of the book, Kennedy answered a question on this point by saying that his briefings in 1960 included information on the planned Cuban invasion. His denial was followed by a supporting statement by Allen W. Dulles, the director of CIA at the time.

However, Mr. Nixon has not accepted this as final. Instead, he has inserted the following footnote in the second printing of his book:

"Senator Kennedy was briefed on Cuba by the CIA representative on July 29, 1960, at Hyannis Port, Mass. Press accounts at the time characterized this briefing as a 'nothing withheld run-down' on the 'two hot spots, Cuba and the Congo.' The New York Times on July 24 reported . . . 'such secret information as was added to the Senator's fund of knowledge about world affairs will remain secret.' But it provides ammunition for his campaign utterances dealing with Cuba as an issue and defense and it puts him on the same footing as the Administration's candidate, presumably Vice President Nixon.

"However, after the publication of the first edition of this book the White House issued a statement on March 20, 1963, denying that the two and one-fourth hours briefing covered any United States operation relating to Cuba."

Subsequently, Mr. Nixon told Newsweek that he stands by his original statement, in which he had said former President Eisenhower had briefed Kennedy on the Cuban situation.

CPYRGHT

Sanitized - Approved For Release - CIA-RDP75-00149R000400350006-7